(c) If so, the outcome of the enquiries of CCI and the action taken against Jet Airways under the Competition Act?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Following legal challenges to the Competition Act 2002, and rulings of the Supreme Court thereon, the Central Government has introduced a Bill in the Parliament for amendment of the Competition Act, 2002 with a view to enable functioning of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in a manner that is legally and constitutionally sustainable. As a consequence, the CCI has not yet become fully functional and has, therefore, not yet taken up exercise of statutory powers relating to enquiries of cartels, abuse of dominance and regulation of combinations and acquisition from the competition angle etc.

(b) and (c) As CCI is not yet fully functional, the question of undertaking enquiries in the Jet-Sahara deal does not arise.

Development of Cultural Exchange Programme

2596. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which Government have signed cultural agreements;

(b) the number of them with whom Government have developed cultural exchange programmes with remaining countries;

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop cultural exchange programmes with remaining countries;

(d) whether ample amount is earmarked for Indian Missions abroad to promote cultural ties with other countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether irregularities have been noticed in usage of such funds;

(g) if so, the details in this regard; and

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Government of India has entered into Cultural Agreements with 118 countries as given in the Statement (*See* below). Cultural exchange programmes have been developed with 86 of them.

(c) Development of cultural exchange programmes with some of the remaining countries are at various stages of consideration.

(d) and (e) Ministry of External Affairs allocates optimal funds to the Indian Missions abroad and to the Indian Council of Cultural Relations for promotion of cultural activities abroad within the overall funds available to the Ministry. The funds allocated by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Missions abroad for this purpose are spent out of the Publicity budget head by our Missions.

The funds allocated under Publicity head were as follow:

(in Rupees crores)

BE	**Actual**
2005-06	
22.89	21.29
2006-07	
23	—

(f) to (h) No Specific instance of misuse of funds for cultural activities by the Indian Missions or Indian Cultural Centres abroad in recent period has come to notice.

Statement

Cultural Agreements with various Countries

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing
1.	Afghanistan	04.01.1963
2.	Algeria	01.06.1976
3.	Argentina	28.05.1974
4.	Armenia	14.12.1995
5.	Australia	21.10.1971
6.	Bahrain	08.01.1975
7.	Bangladesh	30.12.1972
8.	Belarus	14.05.1993
9.	Belgium	21.09.1973
10.	Belize	15.06.1994

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing
11.	Benin	17.07.1986
12.	Bolivia	08.12.1997
13.	Bosnia & Herzegovina	20.09.2002 (Yugos)
14.	Botswana	14.05.1997
15.	Brazil	23.09.1969
16.	Bulgaria	02.02.1963
17.	Burkina-Faso	12.12.1983
18.	Cambodia	31.01.1996
19.	Chile	13.01.1993
20.	China	28.05.1988
21.	Columbia	22.05.1974
22.	Croatia	05.03.1999
23.	Cuba	21.07.1976
24.	Cyprus	24.10.1980
25.	Czech	11.10.1996
26.	Djibouti	31.01.1989
27.	Egypt	25.09.1958
28.	Estonia	15.10.1993
29.	Ethiopia	09.02.1983
30.	Ecuador	18.07.2006
31.	Finland	10.06.1983
32.	France	07.06.1966
33.	Germany	20.03.1969
34.	Ghana	12.10.1981
35.	Greece	22.06.1961
36.	Guyana	30.12.1974
37.	Hungary	03.03.1962
38.	Indonesia	29.12.1955
39.	Iran	10.12.1956
40.	Iraq	19.04.1973

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing
41.	Israel	18.05.1993
42.	Italy	12.07.2004
43.	Iceland	19.10.2005
44.	Ireland	19.01.2006
45.	Jamaica	05.10.1992
46.	Japan	29.10.1956
47.	Jordan	15.02.1976
48.	Kazakhstan	22.02.1981
49.	Kenya	24.02.1981
50.	Kuwait	02.11.1970
51.	Kyrghystan	14.03.1992
52.	Laos	17.08.1994
53.	Latvia	01.09.1995
54.	Lebanon	07.04.1997
55.	Lesotho	05.10.1976
56.	Libya	24.08.1985
57.	Lithuania	20.02.2001
58.	Luxemburg	10.09.1996
59.	Madagascar	17.06.1997
60.	Malaysia	03.03.1978
61.	Maldives	07.09.1983
62.	Malta	14.01.1992
63.	Mauritius	06.02.1976
64.	Mexico	23.07.1975
65.	Moldova	19.03.1993
66.	Mongolia	09.02.1978
67.	Morocco	12.01.1981
68.	Mozambique	09.02.1978
69.	Myanmar	25.01.2001
70.	Namibia	25.01.1991
71.	Netherlands	24.05.1985

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing
72.	Nicaragua	09.09.1986
73.	Nigeria	14.09.1982
74.	North Korea (DPRK)	02.07.1976
75.	Norway	19.04.1961
76.	Nepal	30.09.2004
77.	Oman	03.08.1991
78.	Pakistan	31.12.1988
79.	Panama	02.02.2001
80.	Peru	25.01.1987
81.	Poland	27.03.1957
82.	Portugal	07.04.1980
83.	Philippines	06.09.1969
84.	Qatar	04.06.1980
85.	Romania	03.04.1957
86.	Rwanda	04.07.1975
87.	Russia	28.01.1993
88.	Senegal	21.05.1974
89.	Serbia & Montenegro	20.09.2002 (Yugos)
90.	Seychelles	22.12.1987
91.	Singapore	05.02.1993
92.	Slovak	11.03.1996
93.	Slovenia	16.12.1996
94.	Somalia	02.04.1979
95.	South Africa	04.12.1996
96.	South Korea	12.08.1974
97.	Spain	16.09.1982
98.	Sri Lanka	29.11.1977
99.	Sudan	28.11.1974
100.	Suriname	22.09.1992
101.	Syria	13.11.1975

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing
102.	Tanzania	17.01.1975
103.	Tajikistan	15.02.1993
104.	Thailand	29.04.1997
105.	Trinidad & Tobago	13.03.1987
106.	Tunisia	24.06.1969
107.	Turkey	29.05.1951
108.	Turkmenistan	20.04.1992
109.	United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)	03.01.1975
110.	Uganda	24.11.1981
111.	Ukraine	27.03.1992
112.	Uzbekistan	17.08.1991
113.	Venezuela	13.09.1984
114.	Vietnam	18.12.1976
115.	Yemen	22.07.1999
116.	Zaire	04.07.1978
117.	Zambia	26.01.1975
118.	Zimbabwe	22.05.1981

Meeting of World Cultural Forum

2597. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has recently in collaboration with the Ministry signed an agreement with the World Culture Forum Alliance (WCFA) to host the 3rd global meet of the World Culture forum in January 2008, to strengthen the cultural ties with some 100 countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and specific action-plan drawn up for the proposed meet of the World Culture Forum;

(c) the highlights of the events organized during the earlier such meets held in Brazil and Jordan in 2004 and 2005 respectively; and

(d) the assessment of achievements of the World Culture Forum since its inception?